

EXAMINER

November 30-December 3, 1967

# Red-led marches?

If Communist rabble-rousers inspired last month's mob march on the Pentagon, should the American people be told? Would the truth set off a wave of seeing red as in days of McCarthyism?

## News analysis

This dilemma at the White House was posed by House Republican Leader Gerald Ford. The Michigan Congressman had urged President Johnson to "make public the information . . . on the true nature of the so-called peace demonstration at the Pentagon."

Instead, Ford said, Attorney General Ramsey Clark came to his office on the Hill and "argued against release of the information" contained in a secret report to the President. Johnson had orally told Congressional leaders what was in the report.

"I believe then and I believe now," Ford told the House, "that the American people should be given full information on the degree of Communist participation in the anti-American policy demonstration so that the people may judge just how deep or widespread anti-Vietnam war sentiment is in this country."

"If the evidence in the hands of the executive branch of our government indicates manipulation of the peace movement in this country by Hanoi, then the propaganda impact of such demonstrations will be lessened and perhaps destroyed."

However, the Administration belief is that release of the hush-hush report would whoop up new McCarthyite hysteria. Ford snorted at this chickenism:

"I believe the American people are now mature enough to receive such information and to react without hysteria."

Ironically, it was the Democrats' House leader, Rep. Carl Albert of Oklahoma, who first charged (in Atlanta) that the anti-Vietnam mob that stormed the Pentagon October 21 was "basically organized by international communism."

"The marchers," he asserted, "included every Communist and Communist sympathizer in the US who was able to make the trip."

Albert claimed his charges were based on his own information, not the report that President Johnson was sitting on.

When Ford made his disclosure to the House, Rep. James A. Haley, Florida Democrat, suggested a report to the public should cover "the whole waterfront, so to speak."

"I am sure," he said, "you will find the same agitators and the same Communist influences in many of these so-called demonstrations where we have seen cities destroyed and lives lost."

"I am sure," Ford replied, pointedly, that the release of this information by the President would cover more than these worldwide demonstrations that occurred on October 21. . . . I think this information which is in the hands of the President and in the hands of the executive branch of the government should be made available promptly to all Americans."

Ford clearly implied that the secret report withheld by President Johnson dealt with politically explosive events other than with siege of the Pentagon. The report was compiled by the FBI, the CIA, military intelligence and local police forces.

Today there are two Communist parties in this country, each aligned according to the schizoid set-up in world communism. The Communist Party, USA, is the old organization of Moscow minions. The progressive Labor Party is the Peking-oriented Communist outfit in the US.

In addition, there are an unknown, but large number of "fronts" for both Communist branches. Some are obvious even to the most skeptical—the National Liberation Front represents the Viet Cong. Other Communist fronts sport high-flown, even flag waving names and purport to represent students and self-styled messiahs of peace. All play on the general hope for peace, but actually are serving the Communist cause.

To knowledgeable reporters on the scene the march on the Pentagon was clearly steered by Communist corporals; schooled in the technique of rousing a mob from a position in the ranks—they are not inclined to make themselves conspicuous by being out front in face of a firing line.

—Damon Runyon Jr.

Examiner staff photos